Cynanche An. Tracheralis 2 vols #1

Trachitis

Croup

Inaugural Dissertation
On the
Cynanche Trachealis

Submitted to the examination of
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Diseases, like Empires, have their rise and progress, their periods of declension and fall —

In the writings of ancient Physicians we have sufficient proof of the above position, for, in their works, we meet with histories and descriptions of diseases that have raged for a considerable time with great mortality, and when the latent and unknown causes which generated them, seems to have been spent and exhausted, they have disappeared and are now to be known only by their descriptions, while others

Phœnix-like,

Phœnix-like, have been engendered from the ashes of the old, and have committed ravages, equally wide, numerous, and extensive.

Such is the fate of man that no sooner is he relieved from one calamity than another crowds upon him.

Among the number of those diseases which appear to have their origin in modern times, is to be ranged the Cynanche Trachealis, the disease which I have selected for the subject of my Essay. At least we are to conclude that its origin is of modern date, for in the medical records of antiquity, no description of the Cynanche Trachealis

can be

can be found in the accurate attention of ancient Physicians to the progress of diseases and the correctness with which they have recorded their diagnostic symptoms forbid the imputation of neglect or omission —

When we reflect of the great fatality that attends, and the distressing symptoms with which this disease is accompanied, we must be surprised to hear, that it has attracted so little of the attention of Medical Gentlemen and elicited from them so few observations on its nature, cause and cure —

The cause and cure of this disease have been heretofore clouded by controversy, and involved in

much obscurity &c

The curative indications, deduced from its supposed causes and from its conjectured theory, have been so different so opposite and contradictory, and the modes of cure so various, so numerous, and so opposed to each other, that we may agree with Celsus that our Art has been heretofore uncertain and conjectural or with Boerhave, that it is vanity and presumption to recommend only one mode of cure for any disease —

But since the establishment of true principles, these clouds have vanished and this obscurity is dispelled; the science of Medicine has ar-

to a state of certainty and precision and the theory of disease and the mode of cure reduced to unity and simplicity.

The jargon of Nosology has ceased to confuse and perplex Medicine.

In this age my whole attention has been directed to accuracy in describing the commencement, the progress and symptoms of Cynanche Trachealis, and to propose the only and most successful mode of cure.

In these enquiries, little have I to offer from my own observations or experience, but much shall I be indebted to the writings of authors on this subject. Nor is it expected that a graduate

in an Inaugural essay should either invent a new and correct theory of disease or publish to the world a novel method of cure &c

He has no opportunities of acquiring original information from practice, while the whole time dedicated to the acquirement of Medical knowledge, is consumed in reading and understanding the opinions of others &c Humble are the labours of the candidate for Medical Honors while he has to tread a path, that has been often trodden before He has to bear his course through fields where the sickle has often passed before and the plentiful harvest gathered in, his gleanings must necessarily be poor

and scanty

and scanty. &

Willingly would I turn from this beaten path and barren waste nor should I ever have obtruded on the members of this University so hasty and so crude an essay, were it not for the positive mandate of a law, which orders, that he, who receives Medical Honors, shal give some proof of his diligence and attention in the composition of an Inaugural dissertation. This necessity compells me to undertake the present labour —

Few diseases, to which mankind are obnoxious require a more eminent degree of attention and sagacity in a Physician

Physician that Cynanche Trachealis since its commencement is generally so slight, and its progress so insidious and at the same time so rapid that, before the nature of the disease can be pronounced with certainty and precision, the golden moment for relief is gone, the utmost perfection of his art is impotent, and unavailing and death usurps his prerogative to relieve the unhappy sufferer from his miserable existence —

An intimate acquaintance therefore with this disease in its covert and secret nature and with its progress and symptoms will enable the Physician to prescribe the proper remedies without

doubt

doubt or hesitation, and when this is ~~effected~~, few are the cases, which will arrive to any alarming view, and still fewer are those, which will terminate in death.

In treating this subject I shall 1st endeavour to give a short history of the disease.

2dly To ascertain its seat.

3dly To describe the symptoms which characterize it.

4thly To develope the causes which produce it.

5thly To state the appearances on dissection.

6thly And lastly to conclude with pointing out the most approved and successful remedies for its cure

its cure —

According to Nicholas the first case of Cynanche Trachealis, we have recorded is that of a Taylor related by Tulpius — But as this case is related in so imperfect a manner ~~a manner~~ that we cannot, with certainty, pronounce the nature of the disease, I shall take the liberty of dissenting from this opinion — The only criterion leading to it is the circumstance of the patients ejecting by coughing, portions of a white, thick, smooth membrane — This fact however, does not stamp ~~the~~ the discriminate character of the disease, for it takes place in many disease states of the mouth, in Cynanche Maligna, and likewise

in

in affections of the Trachea from polypus —
Michaelis then enumerates other Physicians who have described this disease, before Dr. Home favoured the world with his most excellent treatise, and in a particular manner takes notice of Ghisi and Italian Physician who witnessed this disease to prevail as an Epidemic, and who has given the world a very accurate and correct account of the opinions he entertained of it, with the mode of cure ~~adopted~~ adopted by him.
The Cynanche Trachealis is seated in the Glottis, the Larynx, the membranes of these parts, and the muscles adjoining to
The Cynanche Trachealis is most commonly

incident to

incident to flat, level, and marshy countries, and particularly in situations not far removed from the sea — Places subject to inundations are most apt to be the scenes of this disease, and the draining and properly securing them from the future overflow of waters, as invariably prevents the reappearance of the Cynanche Trachealis — It is not always confined to places of the above description — Dr. Cullen mentions its appearance in situations far distant from the sea or any waters —

The Cynanche Trachealis most commonly attacks children, but there are many instances of the old and middle-aged being afflicted

with the

with all the symptoms of the disease - This dis-
-ease rarely attacks children before they
are weaned and seldom after twelve years
of age - Its approach is most frequent
and dangerous between those periods -

The Cynanche Trachealis sometimes comes
on suddenly, and its most existent symp-
-toms are the first which make their appear-
-ance, but it more frequently steals upon the pa-
-tient in the deceptive mildness of a cold -
It is frequently attended with remissions, and these
remissions are most generally observed to occur du-
-ring the day -

Sometimes its symptoms are constant and un-
-changeable

unchangeable — Its course is generally terminated in three or four days, but is sometimes protracted in a weak and enfeebled state for nine or twelve days — It frequently accompanies other diseases and sometimes succeeds them — It has been observed to accompany the scarlet fever measles, small pox and aphthous sore throat — It has succeeded the Acute Rheumatism, and been known to occur in a case of Yellow Fever — Dr. Stewart informs me of a case where it alternated with the Gout, in this case he conceived the disease in the Trachea to depend upon the general weakness of the system —

The patient

The patient on the first appearance of Cynanche Trachealis appears dull, heavy, and languid, becomes sullen and reserved to the last there is much propensity to sleep, inaptitude to motion and aversion from his former amusements — He frequently reclines, and suddenly sinks into sleep — From this sleep is he awakened by the distress which the symptoms of the disease occasion, & by which it is known —

The peculiar symptoms by which this disease is known, are, a shrill noise on inspiration or a ringing sound of the voice, as if it came from brazen tube, difficult respiration, with a sense of pain in, and straitening, of the Larynx —

In speaking

In speaking and coughing this ringing sound is most evident.

A dry cough is most commonly the attendant of this disease, but if any substance be thrown up by spitting or vomiting, it resembles a matter very much like pus, and sometimes pieces of membrane—

A considerable fever, a frequent, full, and hard pulse, restlessness, and painful sensations of heat—

When we view the fauces there is rarely any appearance of disease, and sometimes it has been discovered to be somewhat inflamed and swollen—

Also there appears in the fauces, but it happens very rarely, a matter similar to that ejected by vomiting — These are the symptoms by which

the

the Cynanche Trachealis may be recognized. It is produced by all the remote and pre-disposing causes which generate fever, particularly by cold —

Damp and cold atmospheres, vicissitudes of temperature, and quick transitions from cold to heat, are most favourable to the production of this disease, hence it generally makes its appearance in the spring and autumn —

The appearances on dissection are various, sometimes there has been discovered a membrane lining the fauces, like to that which attends inflammation of

the pleura

pleura and viscera – This membrane is formed from the coagulable lymph, which exudes from the mouths of the small vessels terminating on the surface affected –
The Trachea has been also found, as often, destitute of this membranous concretion of coagulable lymph
Many times we meet with evident marks of inflammation, and, as often do we find the seat of this disease entirely free from all signs of inflammation –
When, on dissection, a membrane is found lining the trachea, and when marks of inflammation are discovered in those

parts

those parts which we have assigned as the seat of this disease, it has acquired the name of Inflammatory Croup — And when a matter resembling pus has been found in the Trachea, it is called the Membranous

Lastly — When this membrane is not found and when no marks of inflammation are observable, it has been denominated the spasmodic —

That these various appearances, on dissection, originate from the same causes, and that these states of disease only differ in force and duration, is the opinion of many

eminent

† as in numerous cases wherein inflammation undisputably existed before death.

eminent Physicians, and particularly, of my in-
-genious preceptor Dr. Stuart; the opinion is
supported on the following grounds —
1.ly That inflammation is not, in many instances
perceived in these parts after death, is no proof
that inflammation did not exist before death, and
was undoubtedly the cause of that state; dissec
-tions have not exhibited the least vestige of
such a febrile symptom; we may therefore
conclude that there is no difference in
the general state of the system in these two
diseases or grades of disease, except that which
has been termed the Cynanche Trachealis
Spasmodica consisting in a higher morbid ac
-celerant

excitement, and that in which inflammation occurs so violently, as to suspend the secretion of mucus altogether.

2dly. The noise accompanying the act of respiration in this state of the disease is remarkable and notwithstanding the violent and spasmodic contraction of the muscles, would not take place, were the glottis and trachea duly lubricated and moistened by the secretion of mucus; for, it is well known that, however closely a person in health may contract the rima of the glottis, that sound peculiar to a person labouring under Cynanche Trachealis Spasmodica, can never be successfully imitated by him.

3dly The blood taken in this disease under proper circumstances invariably exhibits either preternatural florridity, or that crust on the surface which is always considered as peculiarly characteristic of inflamation —

4thly Those remedies which reduce the general action of the system, always, under proper and timely application, restore secretion and remove the disease —

5thly and lastly — Such local remedies ~~remedies~~ as reduce excitement and such stimulating remedies as act strongly, when topically applied produce the same effects — To the first of these belong cold drinks, cold acid drinks, Vomits, nitre

and —

and several other neutral salts – To the latter sialagogues, such as the Polygala senega, Rad Pyrethra &c –

The first of these class act by reducing excitement in the vessels immediately affected, thro' the medium of a contamination of the membrane lining the fauces, Epiglottis, and Oesophagus, and thereby restoring them to the secreting point of action –

The last class acts by inducing local indirect debility thro' the same medium, and prostrating the diseased vessels to the secreting point –

This is happily illustrated by the cure of intermittent

intermittent fevers of too much action by the Peruvian bark and various stimuli —
In this case the system is excited to indirect debility, and the action constituting the particular disease is necessarily lost —
Since this disease has been proved to be of an inflammatory nature, we shall attempt its cure by the usual remedies for inflamation —
In the first place we recommend Venesection —
This is to be repeated and regulated by the state of the pulse and the urgency of symptoms —
Some prefer large and copious bleedings

even till syncope be induced, while others recommend small and repeated bleeding — The first mode of using the lancet is preferable and bids fairest for success —
Though the Lancet be the most powerful remedy in this disease, yet it should always be assisted by other remedies such as vomiting excited once every day or oftener —
This will be found a most important and successful auxiliary in the cure of this disease
It is fortunate that emetic vomiting seldom proves injurious to children, and when given in the forming state of this disease seldom fails to effect an immediate cure —

Purges. Calomel appears to be the best purgative we can make use of, and to accelerate its operation, it would be proper to combine it with jalap or Rhubarb.

Calomel produces its effects - 1st By reducing general excitement - 2d By what has been termed secretion 3d By inducing a counter-action in the intestines, & thereby diminishing the tendency of the Tracheal vessels to deposit that mucus which constitutes the membrane we have described - 4th Through the whole arterial system by producing a new and general action which transcends or

supersedes

supervenes febrile action —
Blisters prove eminently serviceable in this disease and may be applied to the throat, breast, or neck —
Their use should never be resorted to, till bleeding and other depleting remedies have considerably diminished inflammatory action and reduced the excitement to the blistering point —
The Seneka snake root has been highly recommended by Dr. Archer of Maryland, but its use in this city has not been generally adopted consequently I can say but little of its beneficial

effects

effects from my own observation and ex-
-perience —

The warm bath has been known to give
great relief in this disease especially
when succeeded by perspiration —

When the symptoms of this disease
have begun to decline and morbid ex
-citement has been, in a great measure, re-
-moved, opiates by relieving the cough,
and mild demulcent drinks, by obtun-
-ing the acrimony of the fluids discharge
from the yet diseased vessels, often pro-
-duce the best effects —